The Mustard Seed Catholic Worker

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Thanksgiving 2016

Dear friends:

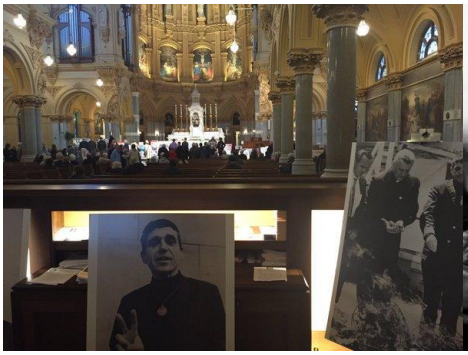
It has been quite some time since our last e-communication. We are perennially very busy! Alas, we hope this little word from us finds you in good health and enjoying the pre-Winter season now well upon us. We had a busy summer and fall as many of you who worked with us over the last months know. The evening meal was and remains at the heart of our shared labor. Please know we are most grateful for all the support whereby our many hungry friends ate a nutritious supper each weekday.

Some thanks at Thanksgiving:

We had a lot of student volunteers helping out over the summer. They were busy with cleaning and painting projects. Young people came from the Nativity School, Worcester Academy, Saint John's High School and older students from Quinsigamond Community College helped us as did the students of Worcester State University who shared their benefit auction proceeds with us. For the second summer in a row, our friends at Abbvie took extra days to provide and serve meals that saw us through the summer months when church groups often take some rightfully needed down time. Our friends at Bay State helped too. Thanks are due to our regular supporters from

the churches and kindred concerned. We made new friends among The Bride of the Lamb Church who we met in their boldly going to the highways, byways, and homeless encampments with food for the poor and nourishment for the soul. Their members have been most kind to us on Wednesdays. Lowe's Heroes also replaced our old ramp and did repairs on the front porch and replaced some doors in the house. More recently, the Boy Scouts have helped to restock our food pantry. The Men's and Women's Groups at Sacred Heart/Saint Catherine of Sweden Parish have supplied us with everything from sleeping bags and blankets to hygiene products and pocketbooks. Individuals and churches continue to help clothe and keep clean. And the area animals are well tended by Kim and the Central Mass Kibble Kitchen. To those not signaled out, and you know who you are, please know we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you as well! Without you, the work would not go on. All of you merit our sincerest gratitude. Deo gratias for our many friends! May God bless and keep you all.

In June Daniel Berrigan, SJ, long a good example to us, went on ahead. Michael traveled to New York City with fellow Worcester Catholic Workers to attend the wake and funeral Mass. Dan was and remains (from above) a good friend to us here. His witness to bold faith, prophetic resistance, and humble service to the poor and sick is ever inspiring. "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Isaiah 52:7 Our November "clarification of thought" meeting, in the light of the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, will be a remembrance and appreciation of Dan and of our local beloved who have recently gone on ahead, among them Gary Benoit and Rhonda Johnson. **Please join us at 7 PM on Monday, November 28th at 7 PM for this special time when we come to together to proclaim:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvyvmLyVvoA



Our October "clarification on thought" meeting was a continuation of our "Visits from our Kin" series. Brian Kavanagh of the Hartford Catholic Worker spoke to us about "Art and the Catholic Worker" from the vision of one contributing beautiful and inspiring art to the New York Catholic Worker and the Saint Martin de Porres CW's newsletter from Hartford. A recent article about the Hartford CW is accessible at http://www.connecticutmag.com/Connecticut-Magazine/October-2016/Community-Hartford-Catholic-Worker/. Brian's art from past newsletters is viewable at the Worker community's web page: http://hartfordcatholicworker.org/MM.

Mass will be celebrated on Friday, November 25th, at 7 PM in the "Upper Room" Chapel at the Seed. Fr. John Madden will be our celebrant. Please join us as the Spirit moves! We pray each Friday at 7 PM with a Liturgy of the Word when we do not have Mass. Please know you are most welcome to attend.

A Case for Utopia

By Peter Maurin, Co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement

The world would be better off
if people tried to become better,
and people would be better
if they stopped trying to become better off.
For when everyone tries to become better off,
nobody is better off.
But when everyone tries to become better
everyone is better off.
Everyone would be rich
if nobody tried to become richer,
and nobody would be poor
if everyone tried to be the poorest.
And everybody would be what [she] ought to be
if everybody tried to be
what [she] wants the other fellow to be.

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Thanksgiving blessings to you and yours from all of us at the Seed. Pax et Bonum.